



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department Of Agriculture Rural Development
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USDA ANNOUNCES \$6 MILLION IN GRANTS FOR RURAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Lincoln, Neb., July 14, 2006 – USDA Rural Development announces the availability of \$6 million in rural community development initiative (RCDI) grants designed to support rural economic and community development efforts.

RCDI grants are provided to qualified private, non profit, and public (including tribal) intermediary organizations. These intermediaries assist recipients-private nonprofits, community-based housing and development organizations, federally recognized Indian Tribes and low-income communities located in rural areas (population 50,000 or less), via financial and technical assistance, to develop their capacity and ability in projects related to housing, community facilities, or community and economic development.

Intermediaries are required to provide matching funds at least equal to the value of the USDA grants. Minimum grant is \$50,000, maximum \$300,000. Funding of selected applicants will be contingent upon meeting conditions of the grant agreement.

Grants may be used for staffing to provide technical assistance, developing the capacity of recipients in conducting community development programs, i.e. homeownership education or business entrepreneur training; carrying out development initiatives, i.e. micro enterprise and sustainable development; increasing leveraging ability and access to alternative funding sources through training and staffing; and providing financial and technical assistance for community facilities. Grants may also assist in completing predevelopment requirements by providing resources for professional services, i.e. architectural, engineering or legal fees; build on organizational capacity via training and resource materials for developing strategic plans, board operation, management, financial systems, and information technology.

The July 12, 2006 Federal Register Volume 71, Number 133 Pgs 39283-39293 accessible at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr> contains program requirements and application information.

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Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/rcdi/index.htm> for application requirements and an application package. Application packages may also be requested from William Kenney, Rural Housing Programs, Rm. 0183, Stop 0787, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-0787, phone (202) 720-1506, william.kenney@wdc.usda.gov. Original applications must be submitted to William Kenney with a copy to the Rural Development State Office where the applicant is located. For Nebraska, mail application copy to USDA Rural Development Attn. Community Programs, Rm. 152 Federal Bldg, 100 Centennial Mall North Lincoln, Neb. 68508. An electronic application may be filed at <http://www.grants.gov>, a copy must still be sent to the State Office as stated above. Faxed or emailed applications will not be accepted. Application deadline is 3 p.m. CST, October 10, 2006.

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“USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity provider, employer and lender.” To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).